

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment to the specification and the following remarks.

Claims 6-10 remain pending and claims 11-15 have been added. Accordingly, claims 6-15 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. Support for new claims 11-15 can be found in the specification of the present application. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,064 to Christie ("Christie"). As described in the Abstract, Christie is directed to a broadband telecommunications system for providing virtual connections through an ATM interworking multiplexor on a call-by-call basis. With reference to Figure 1, a call from user 110 to 120 is initiated by sending a signaling message over link 190 to system 100 initiating the call, which selects a virtual connection 181 through ATM cross-connect system 150 from mux 130 to mux 140, and respective connections are made from user 110 to mux 130 (connection 180) and from user 120 to mux 140 (connection 182). (Col. 4, lns 45-61.) Muxes 130 and 140 convert signals to allow for user traffic over connections 180-182. (Col. 5, lns 21-24.)

Christie does not teach or suggest a method comprising the steps of (i) setting up a signaling connection between a subscriber of the communication network and a service access system and (ii) setting up a payload connection between the service access system and the subscriber, as recited in claim 6 (or "initiating the setup of a service-related signaling

connection” and “initiating the setup of a payload connection” as recited in claim 10). Christie is directed to an ATM system in which only one path (from 180-182) is made (with one virtual connection for data load transfers). Although the Office Action cites to links 190 and 193 in Christie as “setting up a signaling connection,” these links set up only one virtual connection 181 involved for data load transfers (i.e., along the one path 180-182). In contrast, claim 6 expressly recites both “a signaling connection” and “a payload connection” between the service access system and the subscriber (and claim 10 expressly recites a “service-related signaling connection” and “a payload connection”).

Claims 11-15 are also not anticipated by Christie. Particularly, independent claim 11 also recites two distinct connections between the subscriber and the service provider, which is not disclosed or suggested in Christie.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 7-9 and 12-15 are also not anticipated by Christie, at least for those reasons as set forth above with regard to the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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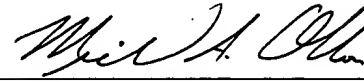
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 30, 2002

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Attachments: Amended Spec. w/ Markings
Amended Drawing

MAO/ff

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

Paragraph beginning at page 2, lines 8-26:

Figure 1 shows an entry node, i.e., a switching center that links the access network to the Internet. The switching center contains, for example, a switching system of Siemens AG, namely the switching system EWSD 10. Said switching system is expanded by an Internet line/trunk group LTG-I 20 that can also contain POP functions in the illustrated case (POP server = point of presence server), but that comprises the interface to the POP server (for example, work station computer of the Sun company) in any case, whereby the POP server in turn comprises the PDH/SDH interfaces to the Internet. The terminal equipment CPE 50a – 50g (referred to as customer premises equipment in English) that are connected to the switching center are thus connected to a switching center in the example of Figure 1 that already represents the entry node into the Internet.

Due to the introduction of a specific service means LTG-I (Internet LTG), which is connected to the switching network SN of the switching system like every normal line/trunk group LTG 40 but comprises specific functions for the Internet traffic, the Internet traffic is separated from the ordinary traffic and is thus controlled by separate software. As a result thereof, undesired interactions with existing features of the switching center can be avoided.

FIG 1 "EWSD Internet Switch" mit zusätzlichen Software-Features durch EWSD

